

## In Congress, April 14, 1777

**IN CONGRESS, APRIL 14, 1777.**

**WHEREAS** the State of Pennsylvania is threatened with an immediate invasion; and, from the adjournment of the Legislative and Executive Authorities of the Commonwealth, it is impracticable to carry into immediate execution many measures of the utmost importance, not only to the safety of this Commonwealth, but likewise to the general welfare of the United States.

Resolved, That it is the indispensable duty of Congress to watch over all matters, (the neglect of which, may, in its consequences, deeply affect the welfare of the United States) till such time as the Legislative and Executive Authorities of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, can resume the regular exercise of their different functions.

Resolved, That his Excellency the President of the Supreme Executive Council of the Common- Wealth of Pennsylvania, be requested forthwith to convene the Legislative and Executive Authorities of this State, in order that proper measures may be pursued for the defence of the same.

Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed to confer with the President of the Supreme Executive Council, with such other Members of the said Council as can be convened with the Board of War for the State of Pennsylvania, and with the Delegate of the said State in Congress, concerning the mode of authority which they shall conceive most eligible to be exercised during the recess of the House of Assembly, and the Council, in order that if the same be approved by Congress may be immediately adopted.

The Members chosen, Mr. S. Adams, Mr. Duer, and Mr. R.H. Lee.

Extract from the minutes, **CHARLES THOMSON**, Secretary.

**IN CONGRESS, APRIL 15.**

The Committee appointed by Congress on the 14th day of April, to confer with the President and Members of the Supreme Executive Council of the Common-Wealth of Pennsylvania, the Board of War of said State, and the Delegates representing the same in Congress, concerning the authority which should be deemed eligible to be exercised during the recess of the Council and Assembly, report That a Conference agreeable to the order of Congress, has been held, when the following Gentlemen were present:

His Excellency Thomas Wharton, jun. Esquire, President of the Supreme Executive Council. Board of War. Owen Biddle, Esq; chairman, Joseph Dean, Richard Bache, John Shee, Delegates for the State of Pennsylvania in Congress. Robert Morris, James Wilson, Daniel Roberdeau, George Clymer, Esquires.

Committee of Congress. Mr. Samuel Adams, Mr. Richard H. Lee, Mr. Duer.

That it appears clearly to the Members in conference, that the Executive Authority of the Common-Wealth of Pennsylvania is incapable of any exertion, adequate to the present crisis, and that it is of the greatest importance, that every power should be called forth into action, which may conduce to the safety of this State, with which the liberties and prosperity of the whole are so intimately connected. From this consideration, and at the particular instance and request of the President of the Supreme Executive Council and Board of War of the State of Pennsylvania, they beg leave to recommend the following resolutions to be adopted by Congress.

Resolved, That the President of the Supreme Executive Council, of the Common-Wealth of Pennsylvania, together with as many Members of said Council as can be convened, the Board of War, and (in such cases as relate to the marine) the Navy Board of said State should, in the present critical exigency of affairs, exercise every authority to promote

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the safety of the State, till such time as the Legislative and Executive Authorities of the Common-Wealth of Pennsylvania can be convened.

Resolved, That it be, and it is hereby earnestly recommended by Congress, to the good people of Pennsylvania, chearfully to submit to the exertion of an authority which is indispensably essential to the preservation of the lives, liberties and property of themselves, their families, and posterity.

Resolved, That the Commanding Officer of the Continental Forces in this city, afford every possible assistance in carrying into execution all such measures as may be recommended to him by the authority above-mentioned.

Resolved, That Congress will chearfully co-operate with the authority above-mentioned, in facilitating every measure which may be deemed conducive to the safety of the State.

Congress taking into consideration the foregoing report,

Resolved, That the same be concurred in, and that the resolutions proposed be agreed to.

Extract from the Minutes, **CHARLES THOMSON**, SECRETARY.

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The report of Committee To Congress April 15, 1777.